

and I certainly would support you in that regard if it comes to that. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, did you wish to speak to the Hannibal amendment?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I support the Hannibal amendment because it is an amendment that I think speaks to the people and for the people. I wish to point out that if we go to district election our five county commissioners will represent the equivalent of somewhere between 75 to 80,000 people. Senator Johnson made the statement that some of the rural areas have district elections. I ask you, how many of them represents 75 to 80,000 people in those rural areas, one man or one woman? I don't think you will find any. I don't think you will find any. Also the point was made that the reason that we should do this is because we have never elected a woman to the Douglas County Board. I would like to recall to Senator Vard Johnson's memory and all those others that the City of Omaha had a woman on the city council when the city council was still elected at large, Betty Abbott, and in one year the voters threw out all the city council except that one woman. So Omaha has elected a woman to a sizable position and she ran at large. Now if a woman has not made it on the Douglas County Board, maybe she could make it if she talked to Betty Abbott and asked her how she did it with the city council because she did not run by district. Senator Pirsch made a very good presentation of the history of Douglas County going from at large to district and back and forth again and I would only say that the reason they went back to the at large in the '70s was they found out it just plain didn't work so they went back to electing them at large and it has worked very well ever since. And the Hannibal amendment is an amendment that I think every Douglas County senator can vote for and go back to his constituents and say, I gave you the right to choose. I am not going to cram something down your throat. I am here to represent you, the people, not just two or three senators from Douglas County who have managed to put together a few votes perhaps in their favor, but I am giving this opportunity to you where it belongs, with the people and it may be the first time we have done it. And if the people want to elect the county board at large or by district, so be it. I did not vote for district elections in the City of Omaha because I didn't live there at that time but I thought it was a good thing the three times they put it on to the people and each time the people voted on it they voted against it. And you know what I ran into during my campaign for this office? People telling me over and over again, what difference does it make if we go to the polls and vote anyway. You senators down there will change our vote. We don't have any voice in the Legis-